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7 January 1985TIME SAYS NANCY REAGAN ACQUIRES POLITICAL CLOUT
WASHINGTON

Nancy Reagan has acquired political clout and influence in her own right and is no longer just President Reagan's wife, Time magazine said in a cover story this week.

In a wide-ranging profile on the first lady, Time quoted Mrs. Reagan as saying, "I have more self-confidence."

"If you are here and you don't grow and don't learn, you are pretty dumb," Mrs. Reagan said. "I don't think I'm dumb."

Time stressed her behind-the-scenes power in terms of the tenure and influence of White House personnel. "Lately she has begun to discuss her role in White House policy-making more openly," it said. "Before (Interior Secretary) William Clark announced last week that he was leaving the government, she told her West Wing confederates that she did not want him to return to the White House."

Time also credits Mrs. Reagan's intervention with the departure of former Secretary of State Alexander Haig and former national security affairs adviser Richard Allen from the scene.

The magazine said that she was less successful in ousting a "hypothetical list" that might have included CIA Director William Casey, Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan and Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler because Reagan declined to go along.

"You know him," Mrs. Reagan said. "It's very difficult for him to do such a thing."

She described her husband as "a soft touch ... the eternal optimist" whose attitude it that "if you let something go, it will eventually work itself out."

Time also credits her with moving Reagan away from hard-line anti-Soviet ideologues and more toward being a peace advocate.

Protecting "Ronnie" remains her "single-minded" purpose, Time said. But after a "terrible first year" in which she was "caricatured as a high-handed queen of a new Gilded age" with her love of designer clothes and other wealthy accoutrements, she has turned her image around with her ardent crusade against teenage drug abuse.

"Nancy Reagan has quite deliberately altered the way she looks at Ronald Reagan in public," it said. "Her worshipful staring during his speeches had for years been regarded as prima-facie evidence of a Goodie Two-Shoes phoniness. She claims it was not a theatrical device, just her natural way of watching anyone speak."

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